

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 116237

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 /009 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:AF/W-EESVENDSEN:DFP

APPROVED BY:AF/W-TWMSMITH

DOD/OASD/ISA-BMOORE (INFO)

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R 121423Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116237

FOL RPT MONROVIA 3000 ACTION SECSTATE 29 APR QUOTE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LI, US

SUBJ: REDUCTION IN MAAG (U.S. MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA)

REF: (A) STATE 093431 (B) MONROVIA 2529, (C) MONROVIA 2058

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPT'S EXPLANATION OF STATUS OF U.S. MILITARY MISSION IN RELATION TO POSSIBLE WORLD-WIDE MAAG REDUCTION. DEPT SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IN EFFECT ACTION HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE REDUCTION OF USMM. THAT IS, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT MAAG REDUCTION WHEN AND IF ENACTED, HOLDS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ALL REPLACEMENT PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHILE DEPARTURES CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. RESULT WILL BE THAT BY MID-SUMMER USMM WILL BE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DEGREE NECESSARY. IF USMM STRENGTH IS TO BE PRESERVED, DECISION TO SUSPEND REPLACEMENT ACTIONS MUST BE VACATED SOONEST. OF FIVE DEPARTURES SCHEDULED BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 30 REPLACEMENT ACTION IS PROCEEDING ON ONLY ONE. AS FOUR-WEEK SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHOOL IS DESIRED PREREQUISITE TO ASSIGNMENT, IMMEDIATE ACTION IS CRITICAL. BELIEVE THIS CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH STATE-DOD CONSULTATIONS NOW.

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PAGE 02 STATE 116237

2. THREE-MAN DEFENSE LIAISON TEAM COULD HELP MANAGE FOREIGN

MILITARY SALE SS AND SMALL GRANT AID TRAINING PROGRAM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS, BUT SUCH A TEAM WOULD BE FULLY COMMITTED IN THIS ROLE. TEAM WOULD NOT BE ABLE AT THE SAME TIME TO CARRY ON ADVISORY FUNCTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FULFILLMENT OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA BY 1981 (SEE MONROVIA 2058, PARTICULARLY PARA 4 AND 7). AS ANOTHER CONSIDERATION USMM HAS BEEN WORKING TO DEVELOP SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND TO ENCOURAGE AFL TO ASSUME ALL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN BUDGETING FOR, SELECTING, PROCURING, AND ACCOUNTING FOR EQUIPMENT ITEMS. PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MECHANISMS, ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW INCREASED AFL LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AT A SATISFACTORY PACE. NEVERTHELESS, LITTLE POSSIBILITY FOR SIGNIFICANT ACCELERATION OF THIS PROCESS IS FORESEEN. IF USMM WERE ABRUPTLY CONVERTED TO THREE-MAN LIAISON TEAM, IT IS LIKELY THAT FMS PROGRAM IN LIBERIA COULD CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED SATISFACTORILY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. ON OTHER HAND, THIS WOULD MAKE UNACCOMPLISHABLE OUR CONINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADVISING ON FULFILLMENT OF AFL'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 1981. CARTER UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE116237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESVENDSEN:DFF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760183-1019
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760562/aaaacaxu.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 93431, 76 MONROVIA 2529, 76 MONROVIA 2058
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REDUCTION IN MAAG (U.S. MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA)
TAGS: MASS, LI, US
To: USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006